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CANTOR COLBURN LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS
201 WEST BIG BEAVER ROAD, SUITE 370
TROY, MICHIGAN 48084-4116
TELEPHONE: (248) 524-2300
FACSIMILE: (248) 524-2700

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Cheryl Moore	Mary E. Golom
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(Docket No. IN-5530/BC1-0047)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Bernhard Lettmann

Serial No.: 10/018,336

Filed: October 30, 2001

For: AQUEOUS COATING MATERIAL
AND MODULAR SYSTEM FOR
PRODUCING SAME

Group Art Unit: 1711

Examiner: ASINOVSKY, O.

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. A process for preparing an aqueous coating material with precisely defined shade and optical effect comprising mixing modules differing in material composition and function and stored separately from one another, shortly before application of the coating material, wherein the modules comprise
 - (I) at least one module containing less than 5% by weight water that provides at least one of color and effect comprising

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- (A1) at least one base color containing less than 5% by weight water that imparts at least one of color and effect comprising
 - (a11) at least one binder, wherein the binder is optionally water-soluble or water-dispersible,
 - (a12) at least one pigment that imparts at least one of color and effect, and
 - (a13) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible, and optionally, at least one of
 - (a14) at least one crosslinking agent,
 - (a15) at least one auxiliary, and
 - (a16) at least one additive;
- (II) at least one aqueous color module comprising
 - (A2) at least one aqueous color-imparting base color comprising
 - (a21) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder,
 - (a22) at least one color pigment, and
 - (a23) water, and optionally, at least one of
 - (a24) at least one organic solvent, wherein the organic solvent is optionally water-miscible,
 - (a25) at least one crosslinking agent,
 - (a26) at least one auxiliary, and
 - (a27) at least one additive;

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and

(III) at least one pigment-free mixing varnish module comprising

(B) at least one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish

comprising

(b1) at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and

(b2) water,

and optionally, at least one of

(b3) at least one crosslinking agent,

(b4) at least one auxiliary, and

(b5) at least one additive;

and optionally

(IV) at least one pigment-free rheology module comprising

(C) an aqueous medium comprising

(c1) at least one rheology control additive;

optionally, with the proviso that at least one of the additives (a16), (a27),

and (b5) further comprise at least one rheology control additive (c1).

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Withdrawn) A method comprising applying the aqueous coating material of claim 1 to a substrate to provide one of an automotive OEM finish, an automotive refinish, and a plastic coating.
13. (Withdrawn) A method comprising applying the aqueous coating material of claim 1 to a substrate as a basecoat, and applying to the basecoat the aqueous coating material of claim 1 as a solid-color topcoat to provide one of an automotive OEM finish, an automotive refinish, and a plastic coating.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)

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16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. The process of claim 3, wherein the base color (A1) imparts one of i)
effect or ii) color and effect.

19. The process of claim 3, wherein the mixing modules comprise one of
1. at least one color module (I) containing less than 5% by weight
water, at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least one
aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III),
2. at least one color and effect module (I) containing less than 5% by
weight water, at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least
one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III), and
3. at least one effect module (I) containing less than 5% by weight
water, at least one color module (I) containing less than 5% by
weight water, at least one aqueous color module (II), and at least
one aqueous, pigment-free mixing varnish module (III).

20. (Canceled)

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21. The process of claim 3, wherein the additive (b5) comprises at least one rheology control additive.
22. The process of claim 3, wherein the aqueous coating material further comprises the at least one pigment-free rheology module (IV).
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. The process of claim 3, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) come from the same polymer class.
26. The process of claim 25, wherein the binders (a11), (a21), and (b1) are polyurethane resins.
27. (Canceled)
28. The process of claim 3, wherein the binders (a21) and (b1), and optionally the binder (a11), comprise functional groups that can be converted into anions by at least one of neutralizing agents and anionic groups.

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29. (Withdrawn)

30. (Withdrawn)

31. (Withdrawn)

32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

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41. (Cancelled)

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE

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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE